



October 23, 2016

My Dear Friends in Christ,

For well over a century, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception has served as the spiritual center of the Diocese of Syracuse. The story of the Cathedral exemplifies the history of our diocesan church. It represents and speaks to the story of the people within that church, offering a narrative that has been written by the hands of laborers, artisans and donors whose industry and generosity ensured the creation of this wonderful structure.

Our Cathedral embodies the history of our Church and exemplifies the history of the people of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse. Since it was first consecrated, the generosity of more than five generations of the faithful has guaranteed the future of our mother church. From this building:

- Priests are ordained and sent forth, from Binghamton to Oswego and Marcellus to Boonville, to minister to our brothers and sisters in faith;
- Oils are consecrated and used to embrace the young in the sacrament of baptism; seal the faith of our youth through the sacrament of confirmation; and provide spiritual and physical healing through the sacrament of anointing the sick; and,
- We gather from throughout our diocese to celebrate the sacraments and many important events that speak to our union in the Mystical Body of Christ.

In the coming weeks you will be receiving the details of this opportunity to shape the future of our Cathedral. With a generous spirit and commitment to the success of this project, we will ensure that it remains a vibrant symbol of the strength of our wonderful faith community.

Just as previous generations have taken upon themselves the responsibility for safeguarding this treasure, I now call upon all Catholics to join with me and each other in preserving and restoring the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for future generations—We Are All Its Guardians!

With prayers for you and every member of our Catholic family, I remain,

Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham
Bishop of Syracuse